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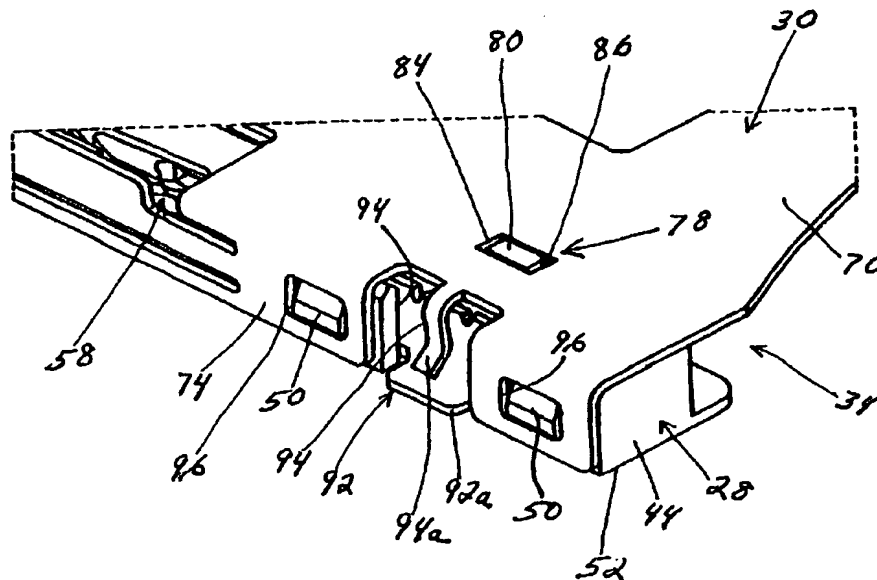
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(54) Title: MEMORY CARD CONNECTOR



(57) Abstract: A memory card connector includes an interior cavity for receiving a memory card. An insulating housing has a rear terminal-mounting section and at least one longitudinal side wall section extending forwardly from one end of the rear section. A metal shell covers at least a portion of the insulating housing and includes a cover plate overlying at least a portion of the longitudinal side wall section of the housing. An engaging structure includes an engaging projection on one of the cover plate of the metal shell or the top surface of the side wall section of the housing extending into an engaging opening in the other of the cover plate or top surface to prevent relative movement therebetween in a plane generally parallel to the cover plate and top surface. A slight clearance is provided between the engaging projection and the engaging opening to avoid creating residual stresses in the housing.

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— with amended claims

**Date of publication of the amended claims:** 24 June 2004

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*

**AMENDED CLAIMS**

[received by the International Bureau on 10 May 2004 (10.05.2004)  
original claims 1 to 16 replaced by new claims 1 to 6]

**CLAIMS**

1. A memory card connector (26) having an interior cavity (34) for receiving a memory card (36), comprising:

an insulating housing (28) having a rear terminal-mounting section (40) at the rear of the cavity, and at least one longitudinal side wall section (44) extending forwardly from one end of the rear section at one side of the cavity, the longitudinal side wall section including a distal end (82), the housing having a bottom surface (52) for mounting on a circuit board, and the longitudinal side wall section having a top surface (54);

a plurality of terminals (32) mounted on the rear terminal-mounting section of the housing and having contact portions (32b) for engaging contacts on the memory card;

a metal shell (30) covering substantially the entire area defined by the insulating housing (28) and including a cover plate (70) overlying at least a portion of the longitudinal side wall section of the housing; and

an engaging structure (78) including an engaging projection (80) on the top surface (54) of said side wall section (44) of the housing extending into an engaging opening (84) in the cover plate (70) of the metal shell (30) to prevent relative movement therebetween in a plane generally parallel to the cover plate and top surface, wherein there being clearance between the engaging projection and the engaging opening to avoid creating residual stresses in the housing..

2. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said insulating housing (28) is generally L-shaped with said terminal-mounting section (40) extending transversely across the rear of the cavity (34), said engaging projection (80) being near the distal end (82) of the side wall section (44) and projecting from the top surface (54) thereof for engagement in an engaging opening (84) in the cover plate (70) of the metal shell.

2 3. The memory card connector of claim 1 wherein said insulating housing (28) is  
generally U-shaped with said terminal-mounting section (40) extending transversely across the rear  
4 of the cavity (34) and including two of said longitudinal side wall sections (42,44) extending  
forwardly from both opposite ends of the rear section, and including one of said engaging  
6 projections (80) near a distal end (82) of each side wall section and projecting from the top  
surface (54) thereof into a respective engaging opening (84) in the cover plate (70) of the metal  
shell.

2 4. The memory card connector of claim 1, including a metal securing nail (92)  
fixed to the insulating housing (28) and having a foot portion (92a) for securing to an appropriate  
mounting pad on the circuit board.

2 5. The memory card connector of claim 4 wherein said metal securing nail (92)  
is fixed to the housing adjacent said engaging structure (78).

2 6. The memory card connector of claim 5 wherein said metal shell (30) includes  
a grounding tab (94) formed into engagement with said metal securing nail (92) to provide a  
ground potential.